



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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Handing over Honor

Iraqi Army takes over another piece of security puzzle



Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 5th Bde., 6th Div., celebrate after the the FOB Honor transfer of authority ceremony on Jan. 31 in Baghdad.

Story and photos by Pfc. Jason Dangel
4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Army's 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division assumed control of Forward Operating Base Honor from the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team during a transfer of authority ceremony Tuesday.

The ceremony marked the increasing role Iraqi Security Forces are undertaking in Baghdad, and throughout their country, in enforcing the sovereign government's rule of law.

"This brigade is responsible for protecting Iraq's new government here in the International Zone," said Col. Mohammad Wasif, the commander of the 5th Bde., 6th

Iraqi Army Div. "We will work day and night to achieve our mission for the new government of Iraq."

FOB Honor is in the palace district of central Baghdad and housed the former Ba'athist regime prior to the war. U.S. air strikes destroyed five of the 20 buildings of the former regime headquarters. Today 15 buildings still stand as Iraqi forces transition with the 4th BCT "Cobras" and make FOB Honor their new home.

Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, were the first to move into FOB Honor in October 2003, followed by the 3rd Inf. Division's 6th

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GENERAL CASEY'S CORNER

Returning to normal

After years of war, sanctions, insurgency and occupation, it is difficult for some

Iraqis to remember what "normal" is. Many see the media reports of a car bomb here or an attack there and think this happens everywhere in Iraq on a daily basis. Not true. While violence

happens all too often around Iraq, it is not normal nor something Iraqis should accept.

Normal life is an economy where a young man can go out and find a job, build a career or ultimately own his own business. Normal is the ability to get married, raise a family and live in a community without fear. Normal is pursuing an education, at fine institutions of learning. Finally, normal is having a representative government that looks out for the best interest of its citizens and ensures that basic quality of life issues such as electricity, water, sewage and transportation are taken care of for everyone and not just the few.

However, there are those that will stop at nothing to dominate the lives of normal Iraqis and subjugate them to their vision of how the world should be. This was clearly highlighted in a letter last fall from Zawahiri to Zaraqawi outlining al-Qaida's desire to establish a Caliphate in Iraq and export terrorism across the Middle East. There are daily examples of

By Gen. George W. Casey
Multi-National Force - Iraq
Commanding General



how terrorists want to take control and deny Iraqis their future. Just last week a suicide bomber killed at least eight and wounded about 30 men waiting for work in eastern Baghdad. Recently in Basra, a terrorist planted a bomb near a school building wall, injuring scores of innocent children. Throughout the year, terrorists have targeted churches and mosques killing those seeking refuge in prayer.

Seeking work, going to school and praying is normal. Denying people's rights to do so is not. While there is more to do, much of Iraq is returning to a semblance of normalcy. The vast majority of provinces are relatively peaceful with people rebuilding their lives. There are increasing signs that divisions between insurgents and Iraqis are widening. Attack trends over the past year are down as well as overall casualties.

As we approach the upcoming Ashoura holiday marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of the 3rd Imam Al Hussein (the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad), terrorists will continue to offer the people of Iraq nothing but death, destruction and a return to oppression.

Let this period be a peaceful recognition of Hussein's sacrifice as the new Iraqi government, along with the Multi-National Force - Iraq, transition to a progressive vision of the future and a return to normalcy.



Ipswich Town Football Club in England donated dozens of soccer jerseys to mayor of Hamrin, enough for five teams.

"This makes me very happy," the mayor said, who immediately began planning the first match.



Capt. A.C. Wiley, an all-around ninja since the age of 6, studies Tae Kwon Do, Judo and Kendo and teaches it to Soldiers.

"I'll continue studying and learning until I can no longer learn, which means I'll probably be dead."



Protective glass on a Bradley turret absorbed an IED blast, saving a 101st Airborne Div. Soldier.

"All I heard was a pop and I saw light flash in through the periscopes and then the cabin started filling up with smoke," said Sgt. Steve Adams.



Sather Air Base's medical facility has been upgraded.

Instead of the dark green, dusty and cramped tents, the new clinic features linoleum floors, sealed windows and doors.

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Iraqi Police Force is evolving

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski
133rd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

MUQDADIYAH — The Iraqi people have less to worry about now that the Iraqi Police are becoming more proficient in their jobs with a little assistance from Coalition Forces.

With some coaching and mentoring from 3rd Platoon, Alpha Troop, 1-32nd Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division, the IP are evolving into a highly capable protective force for the people in this area of Iraq.

Though the IP are making significant improvements, there are still areas that need more work. As 3rd Platoon, known as the "Ghost Riders," see a problem in the way the IPs are handling a challenge, they correct it.

"It is not that they don't know how to handle a situation, it is just that they have not seen the proper way of handling it," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Longoria, platoon sergeant and Rockport, Texas native.

On this day, as the platoon rolled through the streets of Muqadiyah, there appeared to be a traffic accident that had just occurred. As they approached, they noticed



An Iraqi Police officer searches suspected insurgents after a raid in Muqadiyah.

that a man in one of the vehicles had been fatally shot. The Ghost Riders secured the area until the Iraqi Police showed up. Minutes later, the Iraqi Police arrived to handle the incident and the Ghost Riders were on their way.

Next the Ghost Riders visited a traffic control checkpoint. Here, the IP were conducting random searches of vehicles and people.

They were searching for any unauthorized weapons, munitions or explosive materials. A few pointers were given on search techniques and again the Ghost Riders were off leaving the IP in control.

One last pass through the

city revealed a heavily congested traffic jam that the IP were negotiating; Longoria, with the help of his interpreter, prompted the IP to work it out a bit more aggressively.

At this point in their development, the IP can be related to a civilian security organization that is a little less structured than the way we [coalition military forces] are used to seeing, said Longoria.

The Ghost Riders are working with the IPs to build their leadership abilities and help them in any way they can. They will continue to work with the IP in this area to ensure they are ready to protect and serve the Iraqi people.

ISF Trainer says police on right path

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

The Iraqi National Police Commando Division is on track to replicate other elite national police units, the division's American training commander said during a briefing from Iraq Friday.

"We think that the future is to take them to a true national police force, to where they're badge-carrying and qualified officers enforcing the Iraqi rule of law," said Army Col. Jeffrey Buchanan, commander of the 2nd Brigade, 75th Division, likening the force to Italy's Carabinieri or France's Gendarmerie. "That's the future. That's not where we are right now."

To date, the division has been operating as urban light infantry rather than police, said Buchanan, who serves as commander of the Special Police Transition Team for the National Police Commando Division and 1st Mechanized Police Brigade of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

The division, however, is a long way from where it started, Buchanan said.

The Iraqi commando division began as one battalion in August 2004 with no coalition assistance, Buchanan said.

It now numbers four brigades of up to 2,600 men per brigade. The total authorized end-strength for the division is 11,000 and the current total force strength is about 8,900, he said.

See *Buchanan*, Page 9

Iraqi Soldiers lead raids in Baqubah, capture 18

TIKRIT — Iraqi Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, worked with Coalition Forces Sunday to raid an anti-Iraqi forces cell targeting coalition bases in Baqubah.

The Iraqi Soldiers, joined by members of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, planned and conducted several raids to capture terrorists who were

behind mortar and rocket attacks on Coalition bases. Prior to the raids, unit leaders targeted several people believed to be behind the attacks and operating in the nearby town of Septia.

The raid into Septia began just after daybreak, and the units completed the mission by about noon. In all, three targeted terrorists and 15 other suspected insurgents were

detained. The units also seized a weapon, several hundred rounds of ammunition and a improvised explosive triggering device.

This operation between the Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces is another example of the growing competence and capability of the Iraqi Army as they continue to assume more responsibility for Iraq's security and the safety of its citizens.

Fluff-filled toys and children, perfect match

Story by Spc. Karl Johnson
363rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — In a country where having a toy is a rarity, Soldiers passing out beanie babies to Iraqi children can become very popular.

"The children's faces just light up when they see you," said Sgt. 1st Class Alan Certain, Company C, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion. "It's amazing to see what an effect a simple toy can have on a kid."

The civil affairs Soldiers pass out the small toys during their missions in central Iraq.

To date more than 150,000 of the miniature stuffed animals have been distributed throughout the war-torn nation with the help of Beanies for Baghdad, a nonprofit organization.

What started as an attempt to get one child to smile has turned into a project that is helping Soldiers build positive bonds with the Iraqi people.

"This is forming the beginning of friendships

between the children and the Soldiers," said Donna Ward, Beanies for Baghdad project manager. "The hope for a better tomorrow is found in the children of Iraq."

"We are hoping to see an entire new generation of Iraqis who trust that we are their friends and that we're here to help them," said Capt. Darrell Rethford, Co. C, 490th CA Bn.

The success of Beanies for Baghdad has just begun, said Ward.

"We have so much more we hope to accomplish," she said. "These little ones didn't ask to be born in the conditions they are growing up in and this is a way we can make a difference."

"I personally feel this is a small gesture we as Americans and other countries can do to help our Soldiers sow seeds of friendship and to give these children something to smile about in a war-torn land," said Ward.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Jim Barker

A Baghdad child holds "Courage." The toy was a gift from Maj. Jim Barker, whose letter back home telling his family how much the child loved the toy resulted in thousands of stuffed toy donations.

Honor

from page 1

Squadron, 8th Cavalry in January 2004.

The 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div. arrived in Baghdad in December.

"The turnover of FOB Honor demonstrates the increased capability of Col. Mohammed's brigade to assume greater responsibility and security of Baghdad," said Col. Michael Beech, commander 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

"The 5th Brigade has earned a reputation of being a tough well-trained and well-led unit," he said.

"Today is another great step forward for the future of Iraq," said Maj. Gen. Mubdar Hatim Hazya Al-Duleimi, commanding general, 6th Iraqi Army Div.

"Today we lay a new brick in the building of our Army," he said. "We are committed to the citizens of this country and this army and will defend our homes from the threats of the terrorists as we bring freedom back to this country."

The FOB Honor transition marks the continued improvement in the Iraqi Security Forces' capability over the past year, as it continues to assume more battle space throughout the country, said Beech.

"With the seating of the new government and the increased capability of Iraqi Security Forces, I'm very optimistic," said Beech. "I think 2006 is going to be a great year for Iraq."



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jason Dangel

Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 5th Brigade, 6th Division stand in formation at the FOB Honor transfer of authority ceremony on Tuesday in Baghdad.



"Today we lay a new brick in the building of our Army."

Maj. Gen. Mubdar Hatim Hazya Al-Duleimi,
Commanding General, 6th Iraqi Army Div.



Heroes of the Week

An explosive work environment



Sgt. Chad T. Johnson, combat engineer with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, digs to find a weapons cache buried in the side of a canal bank during Operation Trifecta.

Story and photos by
Pfc. Christopher J. Ohmen
2nd Marine Division

ZAIDON — The sun was rising on the second day of Operation Trifecta and it was time for Sgt. Chad T. Johnson, a combat engineer attached to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and his engineers to impair insurgent operations in the Zaidon area.

The Rockford, Ill., native helps a platoon from Company F search vast areas of farm land looking for weapons and explosives the insurgents are suspected to have hidden there.

"This is one of the primary missions for the engineers in this area of operation," said Johnson, a 1994 graduate of Auburn High School. "Finding the caches is the pay off for us. We could be walking around for hours and be tired, but if we find a good cache it is all worth it."

Starting at daybreak, Johnson, whose team includes Lance Cpl. Bryan Fishel, headed out with another sweep team and an infantry squad from Company F. Sweeping through numerous fields and along the sides of canals was the order of the day for Johnson and this group of Marines. There were suspected barrels of TNT in the area they were searching that day.

At around 11:00 a.m. Johnson's sweep team noticed part of a fiberglass pipe protruding from the ground with a piece of corrugated steel bent over one end. Running the metal detector over the area Johnson's team received a positive hit and they decided to investigate.

Clearing away enough dirt to peel

back the metal on the end of the pipe they placed two chemical lights in the end of the pipe and used a flashlight. Getting enough light to see inside they saw right away they would have to keep digging.

"The insurgents tried to waterproof the section of pipe by using plastic and metal on one end and sandbags on the other," Johnson stated. "It didn't work all that well because the bottom half of the pipe was all mud."

After seeing what was being stored in the pipe, Johnson's team had to methodically weed through the mor-

tars and various improvised explosive device components that were in terrible condition. Some of the mortars were missing safety devices and were unstable.

Johnson's team took around five hours to remove the ordnance from the cache. About 200 meters from the pipe was a storage container that also gave a positive hit with the metal detector. After searching around the edges of the container, a second cache was discovered and excavated.

After a long day of digging and sweeping, Johnson's team and the engineers were successful in getting a large quantity of ordnance out of the insurgent's hands.

"All the engineers did an excellent job of scouring the area to uncover these pockets of weapons," Johnson said. "We hurt the insurgent's ability to fight the Coalition Forces in this [area]."

The operation uncovered more than 1,000 mortars, artillery rounds and rockets; 20,000 rounds of ammunition for small arms and over a dozen weapon systems. Johnson and the engineers were the tip of the sword for this operation and reduced the insurgent's ability to fight against a free Iraq.

'Some of the mortars were missing safety devices and were unstable.'



Sgt. Chad T. Johnson probes the hole for metal while searching for weapons caches

Weeding out Terror

While no major operations were conducted last week, Coalition and Iraqi forces kept up the fight to rid the country of insurgents. Not only were many caches and IEDs found, but troops also captured 11 foreign fighters in Iraq, disrupting their terrorist intents.

Western Iraq: 5 Foreign Nationals (4 Saudis, 1 Yemen) captured trying to flee from a Coalition Patrol

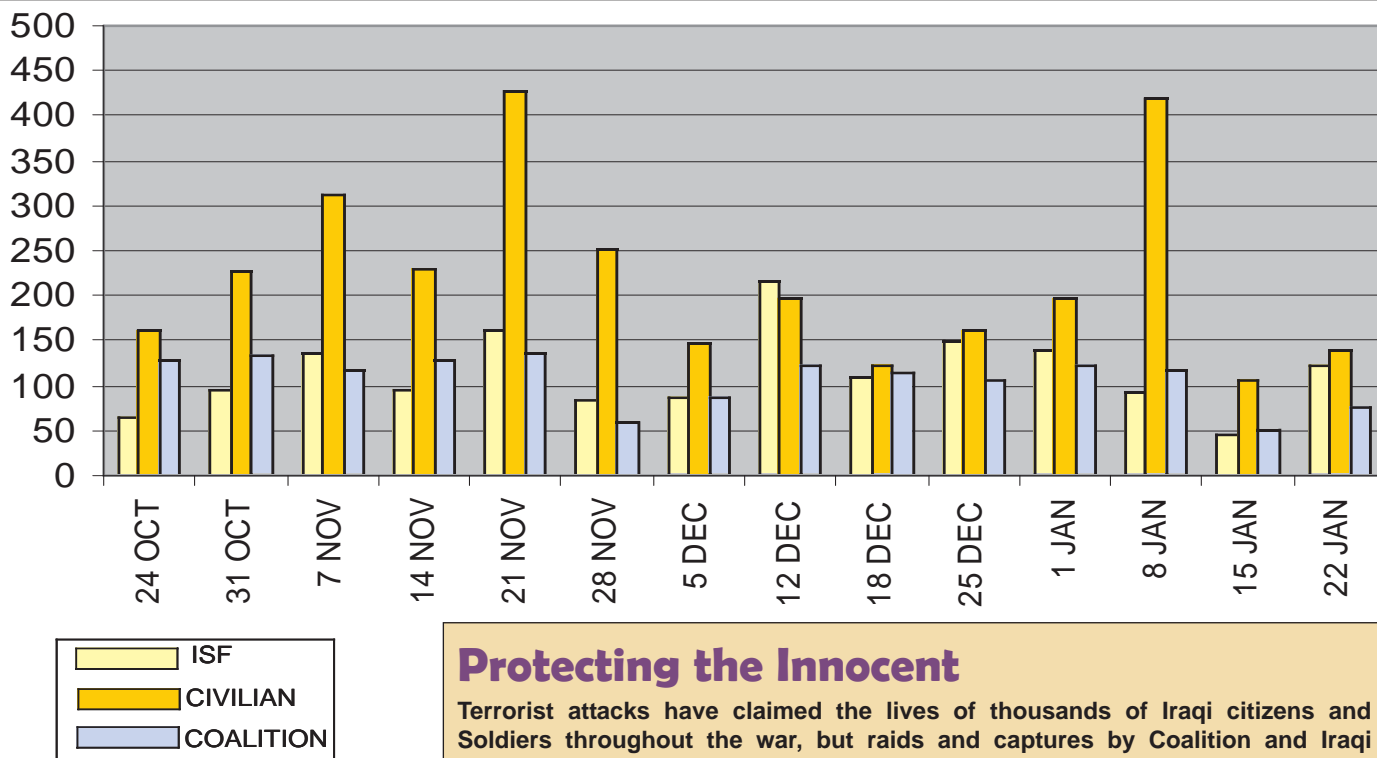
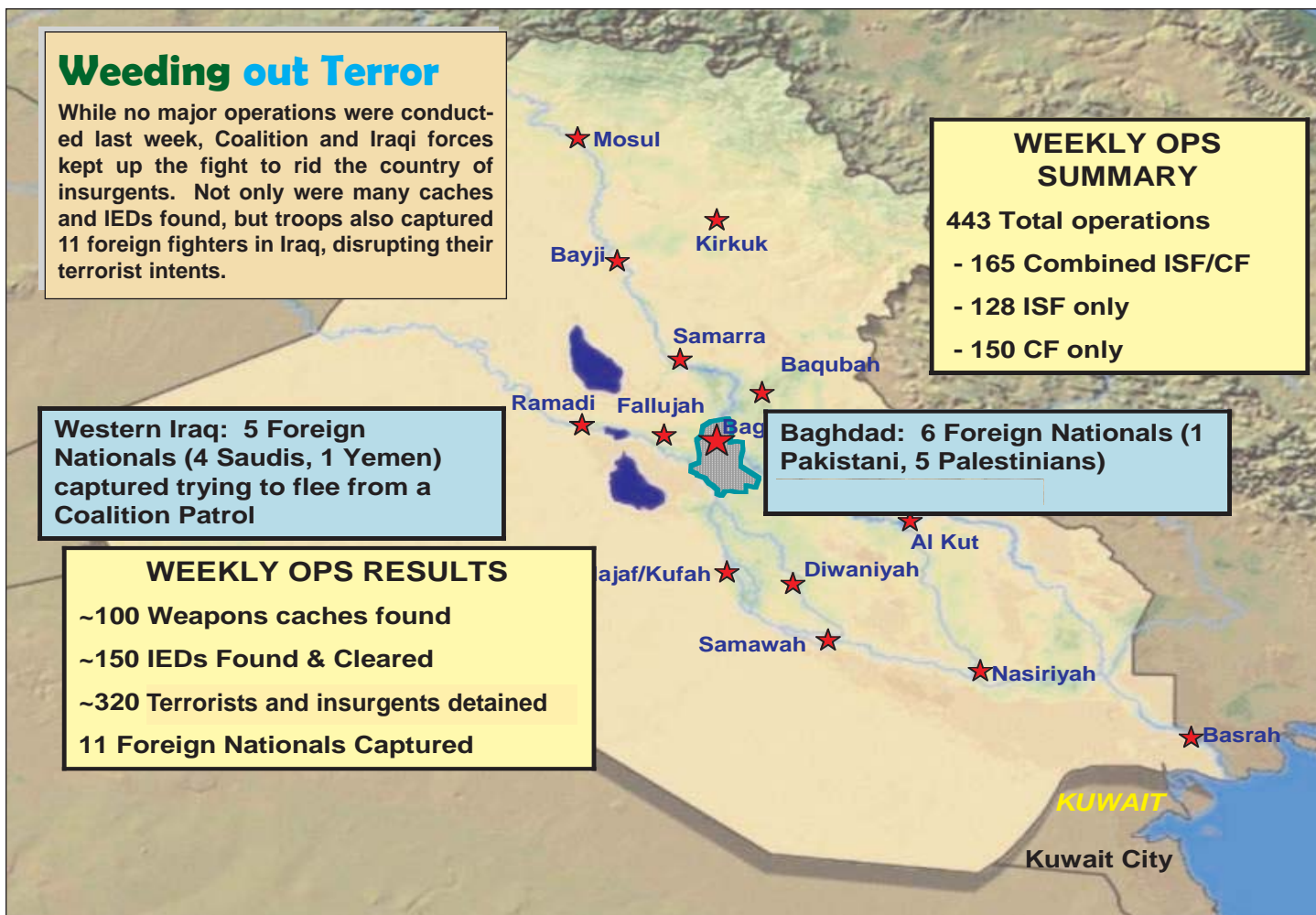
WEEKLY OPS RESULTS

~100 Weapons caches found
~150 IEDs Found & Cleared
~320 Terrorists and insurgents detained
11 Foreign Nationals Captured

WEEKLY OPS SUMMARY

443 Total operations
- 165 Combined ISF/CF
- 128 ISF only
- 150 CF only

Baghdad: 6 Foreign Nationals (1 Pakistani, 5 Palestinians)



Protecting the Innocent

Terrorist attacks have claimed the lives of thousands of Iraqi citizens and Soldiers throughout the war, but raids and captures by Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have slowed terrorists over the past four months.

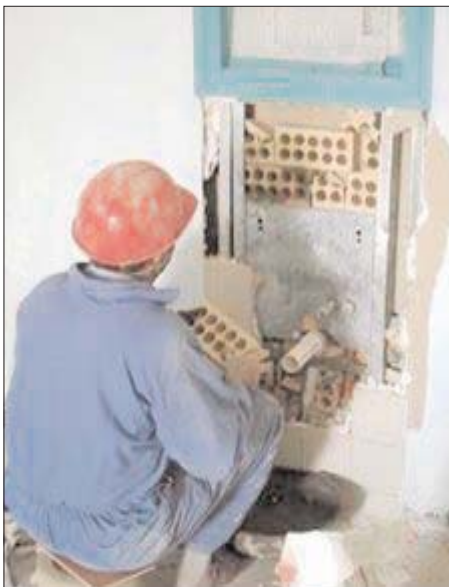
Hospital + Facelift



The Al Baladi Maternity and Pediatric Hospital in Sadr City is being modernized. Construction began in July 2004, and is scheduled to be complete in April. Workers from Parsons Delaware Inc. and Al Farouq Co. repaired and replaced plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, while sprucing up the facility's looks. Ceramic tile now covers the floor and new wooden doors help separate the wards. Paint, bathroom fixtures and lighting were improved. About 160 Iraqis are working on the \$12.3 million project.

Photos by Norris Jones

U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, Central District Public Affairs Office



Muddy raids yield sweet rewards

Story by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph
Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Trudging along the muddy riverbanks of the Euphrates on Jan 30, Lance Cpl. Hugh J. Murphy battled terrain, physical stress and constant enemy threat to tear down the insurgent arsenal one cache at a time.

This kind of vigilance has rendered many rewards. During Operation Koa Canyon, Iraqi Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Infantry Division and Murphy with his fellow infantrymen of Company A, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, discovered weapons caches and caught men intending to use them.

"We've definitely made it harder for them to fight us," said the Pittsburgh native as he slogged through an onion field beside his Iraqi counterparts. "It's obvious where the insurgents are."

Marines would find freshly-turned soil as they made their way through the fields, prompting the call for combat engineers. Much of the artillery, mortar and other weapon caches were uncovered because of the engineers and their mine detectors.

"Being a former combat engineer, I was in heaven," said 1st Sgt. Anthony Cruz. "The caches were unbelievable. We'd set up security on one and have to keep moving because we were finding so much."

"For every rocket and mortar we found, that's one less person killed," said the Bronx, N.Y., native. "One less IED, one less American dead, one more innocent Iraqi saved. That's how I look at the numbers."

By remaining watchful near one such cache, the Marines of Company A caught a man attempting to retrieve his deadly booty.

"We stayed up all night in the rain," said Lance Cpl. Andrew L. Cave, of



U.S. Marine photo by Lance Cpl. Peter R. Miller

Seaman Max C. Elia, a Navy corpsman attached to Alpha Co., Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines, cleans the infected eye of an Iraqi.

Cherokee Village, Ark. "None of us really got any sleep, but that morning it was all worth it. We got him."

"We could have found all of the explosives in Iraq, but if we didn't catch the bad guys, they would just get more," he said.

Throughout the next eight days and nights, the Marines and Iraqi Soldiers

battled sandstorms, numbing cold and rain and the enemy threat. After finding a rocket tube, Iraqi Soldiers searched the surrounding hillside and apprehended two men.

When the Marines shot an azimuth from where they found the rocket, it was pointed directly at Forward Operating Base Hit, said Cruz. That base had already been hit

a few times by indirect fire. These insurgents weren't going to get another chance.

"It got emotional watching them catch those two guys," said Cruz. "It means that we're one step closer to ending this war. The bad guys are still out

there. We still have work to do here, but we're getting closer."

After scouring 43 miles between Baghdad and Hit during the 10-day mission with three Iraqi Soldiers in his fire team, rifleman Lance Cpl. Earnest K. Hannah, of Williamson, W.V., attested to the muscle of Iraqi Soldiers.

"The (Iraqi Army Soldiers) were pretty good for the past 10 days. If they had a little more training and leadership, I know they could be better, but they were good to go," he said. "They get better every year."

Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers discovered an improvised explosive device installed onto railroad tracks near Al Mahmudiyah, just south of Baghdad on Jan. 30.

The IED consisted of two artillery rounds. According to Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade, the two rounds were attached to a motorcycle battery, two washing machine timers, detonation cord and electric blasting caps.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called to the scene and conducted a controlled detonation.

In the Al Anbar province Marines with Company B, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn., 2nd Marine Regiment

"It got emotional watching them catch those two guys."

Operations

from previous page

and Iraqi Soldiers completed their part of Operation Koa Canyon.

The 10-day operation was to clear local towns and villages of weapons caches and insurgents along the Euphrates River as other elements of the BLT and Iraqi Army worked the other side of the river.

Starting in the Jubbah-Baghdadi region on Jan. 16, Marines turned south and searched every palm grove, village and shack. The Marines and their Coalition counterparts patrolled the eastern side of the Euphrates, covering about 43 miles alongside the twisting and turning river.

With the Iraqi Soldiers working with Co. B, the force was able to uncover thousands of rounds of small-arms ammunition, mortar rounds and improvised explosive devices. Also assisting the company were motorized forces from the Combined Anti-Armor Team, Light Armored Reconnaissance Platoon, an explosive ordnance disposal team and combat engineers.

"All of our attachments did a great job and each of them played a vital role in the mission accomplishment," said First

Lt. Chris Richardella, of Washington, executive officer for Co. B. "The Engineers from [MEU Service Support Group 22] did a great job; most of the caches we found were due to their work."

While CAAT and LAR maintained security, EOD and the engineers worked together with the infantrymen to find the weapons caches and dispose of them. Around 45 weapons caches were uncovered during the operation.

Iraqi Security and Coalition forces found a weapons cache in a remote area of the desert south of Al Najaf on Jan. 31. Explosive ordnance disposal teams from the ISF and Coalition Forces recovered 60 rockets and four unidentified missiles.

On Friday, Soldiers with the Illinois National Guard and Marines from 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), captured a weapons cache during a patrol west of Fallujah.

The cache consisted of 830 various sized mortar rounds, 43 rockets, 75 tubes of C3 explosives, 125 hand grenades, seven bags of TNT, eight land mines, 250 mortar fuses, 500 artillery primers, six mortar systems, 11 rocket propelled grenade rounds, 50 anti-aircraft rounds, 20 sticks of TNT, four machine guns and additional items.

This marks the eleventh weapons cache these service members discovered in a 13-day period.

Buchanan

from page 3

"They're really searching for quality rather than quantity," said Buchanan. "They recruit only through word of mouth. We don't have recruiting centers set up in a mall or something like that. And basically every guy that comes in is known to some of his fellow comrades, which is a way that they have of cutting down potential infiltration."

Throughout Iraq, the commandos are responsible for conducting counterinsurgency operations, gathering intelligence and establishing a secure environment for other security forces.

"The commandos typically accomplish that mission by conducting raids, cordon-and-search operations (and) reconnaissance," Buchanan said. These operations are conducted both independently and in conjunction with Coalition Forces, he said.

Buchanan has one Special Police Transition Team embedded in each police organization down to the battalion level. These teams American servicemen and Iraqi interpreters are primarily responsible for coaching, teaching and mentoring the commandos and the mechanized police

brigades, he added.

This instruction includes how to handle one of the division's greatest strengths: aggressiveness. Buchanan said his teams lead by example and work to ensure that the Iraqis' aggression doesn't go over the top.

"They tend to be aggressive, and they will hunt down the enemy. Sometimes that aggressiveness has the potential to get them into trouble," he said. "But the fact is that we're addressing it and we're being effective in helping to shape their behavior."

"The fact is, most of the people in this country have learned and operate the way they do based on 35 years of experience," he said. "Right now we're shaping behavior. We're starting to affect values, but changing values is going to take a long time."

In hopes of truly making this Iraq's Year of Police, police transition teams also will embed in regular police services throughout Iraq, Buchanan said. The hope is that proficiency will increase by embedding the teams of Coalition advisers with the regular



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Woodbury
Col. Jeffrey Buchanan talks with Iraqi Maj. Gen. Rasheed, Special Police Commando Division commander, and members of the Freedom Brigade, an Iraqi Police unit.

'They tend to be aggressive, and they will hunt down the enemy.'

police services.

One thing the commandos have learned is the U.S. Army's value of selfless service and what it means to live in a democracy, he said.

"Democracy requires individual sacrifice for the good of society and (the Iraqis) are doing just that," Buchanan said. "They, like their Coalition teammates, put the needs of their fellow men, their units and their nation above their own."

"It's truly an honor to serve with all of these men, both Iraqi and American," he said.

Eagles and Iraqis

101st Airborne Division medics train their Iraqi counterparts to save lives on the battlefields of Iraq

Story and photos by Spc. Lee Elder
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MUQDADIYAH — U.S. medics here are gearing up for a second round of training with Iraqi Army medics in first response procedures.

Based on the Eagle First Responder Course, taught for years at Fort Campbell, Ky., the five-day course gave Iraqi Army medics updated training in key battlefield medical tasks. It's just one of the tasks for U.S. forces who are preparing their Iraqi counterparts to become more self-sufficient in their battle against insurgents. It will be the second course taught here.

"This will result in many saved lives," said Sgt. Thomas Miller, a medic attached to 1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division, stationed at Forward Operating Base Normandy. "That is the most satisfying part for us as trainers, knowing they will take this training and use it to save lives."

The last course trained 30 medics. The upcoming course hopes to train between 20 to 25 medics, Miller said.

Medics were taught airway management, controlling bleeding, treating casualties for shock and tactical combat casualty care. The classroom training lasted four days and, on the fifth day, the student medics were sent through scenario-based training where they would perform tasks they had been taught in class.

"We put all these tasks together at the end," Miller said.

Army medics were assisted by Iraqi doctors, most of whom could speak English. This helped lessen the language gap between instructors and students.

"We would work with the Iraqi doctors and that way things wouldn't get lost in translation," Miller said. "When your translator understands what's being taught, it makes teaching much easier."

Miller said U.S. instructors enjoyed teaching the class and are looking forward to the next one. They found they had many things in common.

"It's always fun to teach and share techniques," Miller said. "It's always fun to teach students who are enthusiastic and want to learn."

The Iraqi Army medics' expertise and experience levels varied. It was up to the instructors to keep things interesting for every one.

"The biggest challenge was trying to get on the same level with the Iraqis," Miller said.

Treating a casualty during a training exercise, Iraqi Soldiers learn the skills they will need in the field from U.S. medics.



An Iraqi Soldier drags a casualty to safety during a training exercise. U.S. medics trained their Iraqi counterparts in combat medical procedures.



Question Tag

Q: Isn't **Babylon in Iraq?**

A: The once great city of Babylon was near present-day Hilla, south of Baghdad. For two millennia, it was one of the most influential cities in the region. Work was done to excavate the city in 1899, which was once the seat of power for kings Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar.

Rebuilding Iraq

Projects that are shaping a nation

Samarra

About 136 yards of feeder wire is all it took to give 200,000 residents of Samarra reliable power after the installation of a electrical substation.

FOB Dagger

Renovations to the water and electrical systems at the forward operating base will effect more than 300 Iraqi Soldiers preparing to take over security in the Salah ad Din Province.

Samarra

Five miles of unimproved road was paved in Samarra, providing access to a local school and other community services.

Afaq

Finished ahead of schedule, the Security and Justice project in Afaq included a highway police headquarters, jail, barracks, bathroom facilities and a dining area for the Iraqi Police.



Amara

A vehicle checkpoint has been built in Amara, increasing the town's security and giving Iraqi Police a safe place to check for weapons and explosives.

Abo Bosari

Work has begun on a water compact unit for the people of Abo Bosari. The \$590,000 project should be finished in mid-May, providing water to the town's residents.

Iraqis now control Honor

**5th Brigade, 6th Division
assume responsibility of
International Zone FOB**

Photos can be found on www.mnf-iraq.com

Photos by Pfc. Jason Dangel and
Sgt. 1st Class David D. Isakson
4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division



Col. Michael F. Beech, commander of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and the Iraqi Army's 5th Brigade, 5th Division Commander Mohammed Wasif raise the Iraqi Army 5th Bde., 6th Div. colors at Forward Operating Base Honor Tuesday.



Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commanding general of Multi-National Division-Baghdad talks to the press following the Forward Operating Base Honor transfer of authority ceremony.



Col. Michael F. Beech, commander of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, presents a key to Forward Operating Base Honor to Col. Mohammed Wasif, commander of Iraqi Army 5th Brigade, 6th Division, on Tuesday.



A convoy stands by as extra security following the ceremony in the International Zone, Baghdad.